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Housing-National Task

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT
Minister Of State For Works & Ho using

The role of housing in economic development, both as an end and a means, is an important one; as an end, housing is an essential ingredient in the basic requirements of a civilised living; as a means, besides adding to the national income, housing is a strong motivator of savings and plays an important part in the generation of employment. Whilst the economic utility of a large housing programme is not in question, it presents many difficulties on account of the magnitude and complexity of problems and its demand on financial resources. Taking these factors into consideration, the draft Fifth Five Year Plan addresses itself to the following limited obectives in the Housing Sector:

(a) Preservation and improvement of the existing housing stock.

(b) Provision of house-sites to landless labourers as a part of the Minimum Needs Programme.

(c) Continuance of existing schemes to provide subsidised houses to certain weaker sections of the community.

(d) Expansion of support to institutional agencies such as Housing and Urban Development Corporation and Housing Boards under the State Governments to enable them to provide assistance for the benefit of low income and middle income groups.

(e) Intensification of research in and development of cheap building materials.

Prior to the inception of planning housing was restricted mainly to regulation of building activity through muncipal byelaws. Legislative measures like rent control were enacted to restrict the landlords from raising rents. The Government also constructed houses for their employees.

After the introduction of the plans for socio-economic development Government introduced a number of social housing schemes which were limited mainly to provide housing for the middle and low income groups and economically weaker sections of the community.

It is in this context that for the first time, a Statement on Housing Policy was made by the Central Government in Parliament in 1957. At that time it was recognised that public housing would have to be undertaken on a large scale to help in increasing the housing stock of industrial workers, slum dwellers and generally those belonging to the economically weaker sections of the society.

It is now nearly 20 years since that Policy Statement was made. The population has increased tremendously during this period. Housing shortage has accelerated. In the urban areas slums and squatter settle-

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Words to Remember

[Excerpts from the speeches of the Prime Minister]

Addressing the non-aligned Summit Conference in Colombo, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi said:

In a fast changing world non-alignment remains the bulwark of an ever-widening area of peace, a shield against external pressures and a catalyst of a new world economic order based on equality and justice. It promotes and hastens, itself remaining unchanged. We represent nations which, amidst their colourful diversity, are united in their unvarying search for freedom, equality, peace and stability for their own peoples and for all the world. Non-alignment is the courage of true independence.

The concept of non-alignment was shaped in the long years of our national struggle, much before the cold war developed and blocs were formed. The cold war has ended, but has its legacy? Colonial rule has almost gone, but have its consequences?

Many of our nations remain politically vulnerable to external pressures. The effort to undermine the power of nationalism and political cohesion, to discredit and remove leaders and governments who symbolise independent thinking and self-reliance, and to install more pliable individuals and parties, is unabated.

Economic exploitation persists in old and new garbs. So do the technological disparities and psychological complexes bred by colonialism. Instead of diminishing, military presences are being extended, and theories of imagined power-vaccums are mooted to justify such action.

All countries around the Indian Ocean, who wish this area to be a zone of peace, are perturbed by the establishment of bases and intrusion of rivalries.

The aim of the non-aligned movement is to re-inforce the strength of each of our nations to measure up to challenges. At the same time we stand for responsive cooperation.

We are neither a bloc nor a third world, but a part of this our one world.

The era of the cold war proved the soundness of nonalignment as perhaps the only practical policy for the preservation of the newly won independence of many countries. To us, choice between one military bloc or another seemed irrelevant and unreal.

Our choice was between independence and dependence, between progressing through co-operation or perishing through confrontation. That most states which achieved independence have joined the non aligned family is vindication of the conceptual validity of non-alignment.

If today the non-aligned do constitute a force (albeit a moral one), it is because we represent a major dynamic period of history. We stand for the inherent right of every nation, no matter how weak, to exist and progress in spite of notions of ideological conformity or the inevitability of war so compellingly propagated by the strong.

We represent the spirit of co-operation. And our assessment has been proven more correct than the analysis of those who try to enforce their own ideological obsessions.

Non-alignment, with its politico-economic basis, has a more powerful appeal. Unity amongst ourselves is essential for our movement to retain its utility. A united non-aligned group will make an impact on world peace and on the evolving of a new economic order for the millions of poor.

A new international economic order can be realised only with a cohesive political driving force which recognise diversity but looks at the situation beyond the technical solution of problems of trade, finance and raw materials.

Unity will benefit our own countries as well as nations and peoples everywhere. In the absence of a united front our voices will go unheard and unheeded.

(Contd. on page 7)

THUS SPAKE THE MAHATMA

There are subjects where reason cannot take us far and we have to accept things on faith. Faith then does not contradict reason but transcends it. Faith is a kind of sixth sense which works in cases which are without the purview of reason.

ASOKA SCENTED BETEL NUT POWDER

Free India

SUNDAY Aug. 29, 1976

NATIONAL PLAN FOR COMMODITIES

The Government at the Centre are equipped with extraordinary powers to deal with any situation in the country.

The declaration of emergency has brought about muchneeded discipline in the life of the nation. Known profiteers and blackmarketeers have been caught. Perhaps a few have been left who still indulge in shady deals which very often unsettle essential commodities markets. It is really surprising that the popular government feels helpless with regard to edible oils, cotton and sugar.

All these items are produced in this country and they also figure in our export list. Following an unexpected crisis groundnut oil and cotton are to be imported!

The main reason for this situation is the lack of a national plan for production and distribution of these commodities. Other reasons mentioned are "adhocism on the part of the Centre, parochial regulation of supplies by the producer states and unbridled speculative market forces."

The Union Minister of State for Civil Supplies, Mr. A. C. George, has said that the Centre will keep a constant vigil over production, allocation, transportation and distribution of commodities throughout the country. He has realised that "adhocism will have to stop."

The action proposed is late; but it is better late than never!

KAMBAN FESTIVAL

By A Correspondent

If Kamban were alive today, he would be proud of two things. One is that his masterpiece Ramayana is being taken care of by the sophisticated modern technology. His epic has reached a higher level of printing. The second is that its sway has spread to new bounds instead of being the exclusive domain of Tamil scholars. These were witnessed during the Kamban Festival held recently in Madras.

Organised by the Kamban Kazhagam, the two day festival provided literary inclined people in the city an opportunity to have a more scholarly look at the poet as well as his product.

BOOK RELEASED

The unique feature of the festival was the release of the new edition of Kamba Ramayanam. Published by the Kazhagam, the book was released by Mr. Kannadasan under the chairmanship of Mr. N. Krishnaswami Reddi, former Judge of the Madras High Court. Mr. S. Maharajan, former Judge of the Madras High Court and Mr. Justice M. M Ismail, Judge of the Madras High Court and President of Kamban Kazhagam, spoke on the occasion. Welcoming the gathering. Mr. Ismail explained the features of the new edition. For the first time all the six cantos of Ramayana have been published in one volume. Mr. A. V. Meyyappan received the first copy.

The Kamban Kazhagam brought out a souvenir on the occasion. It was released by Dr. Indira Somasundaram. The souvenir carries about a dozen articles of literary depth on various aspects of the Ramayana.

The festival began with a seminar on the role of Hanuman, Mr. M. Arunachalam presiding.

MEMORABLE PIECE

The second day was devoted to poets' forum and a Pattimanram (Debate). Six eminent poets presented their pieces highlighting six women characters of the epic, namely, Kausalya, Kaikeyi, Ahalya Surpanaka, Tarai and Seetha. Mr. K. V. Jagannathan, Editor, Kalaimagal presided.

Each poet, who represented one of the characters, put forth an argument justifying the actions of that character in the course of the story. It was gratifying to see hundreds of people sat through the entire function apparently enjoying the poetic talents that flowed for more than two hours. The most memorable piece was that of Surpanaka presented by Mr. Abdul Rehman. He gave a new look to Surpanaka who was responsible for Rama's confrontation with Ravana. Her love for Rama, the poet said, made her more feminine than she looked. The poem was full of humour and thoughts.

The festival concluded with a debate Who is the best of the adopted brothers of Rama—Guha, Sugriva or Vibhishana ?" After a very interesting and emotional arguments and counter arguments Mr. Justice Ismail gave the verdict. Three groups valiantly argued for their candidates, but the one for Guha succeeded in the end by the weight of their hero and by their fine presentation of the case.

NEW TRUST

During the festival a proposal was announced to set up a One Lakh Rupee Trust and construct a building costing 5 lakhs for the Kamban Kazhagam. Within minutes the donations totalled Rs. 27,000. Mr. A.V.M. donated Rs. 11,000, Mr. Krishnaswami Pillai Rs. 10,000, Mr. Chellaswami Rs. 5,000 and INTUC Rs. 1,000. A permanent memorial for Kamban in Madras will be welcomed by every admirer of the poet.

Mr. Ismail announced that the Kazhagam would conduct elocution competitions for college students from next year. The proposed building will be used for organising classes and lectures on Kamba Ramayana and Tamil literature.

The scholars who were responsible for the production of the new edition of Kamba Ramayana were honoured at the festival. They included Messrs. T.P. Meenakshisundaram, A.S. Gnanasambandam and M. Arunachalam.

The new edition has many features of significance. It is printed on special Bible paper. Though it contains more than 1800 pages, the volume is handy. The verses are punctuated for easy reading. Difficult words have been given meanings on each page. The scholars who edited the book have rightly included all the verses of Kamban that are available, in various earlier texts. The verses which are not considered genuine are separately given at the end of each canto. Priced at Rs. 75 a copy, the book proves to be a valuable possession.

From page 1

ments have increased in numbers; in the rural areas landless workers had been left without even house-sites for constructing houses. The crisis has now been appreciated. Efforts are on to solve this crisis. No doubt this will call for mobilisation of all efforts and spelling out of a definite policy in this regard for future action.

RURAL HOUSING

The problem of rural housing is now sought to be tackled on an emergency basis. Although a scheme for allotment of house-sites for the landless workers in rural areas was initiated in 1972 as part of a Minimum Needs Programme to increase social consumption, the programme did not get sufficient fillip. The Prime Minister in her 20-Point Economic Programme specifically, therefore, included this programme of allotment of house-sites to rural workers and desired expeditious action in this regard. Ever since July, 1975 this programme has received very energetic action. In fact some State Governments have taken the initiative in organising local enthusiasm and efforts to put up rural houses on the sites alloted to the landless workers.

In regard to housing the urban poor, the problem is really one of finding the land at reasonable prices and helping them to put up housing consistent with their resources. Many State Governments have launched programmes in this direction. The slum clearance schemes and the scheme for construction of housing for low-income and economically weaker sections of society have helped to add to the housing stock for the poor, but their efforts have been inadequate. Therefore, new approaches are called for. The provision of 'sites and services" is one of the methods by which the poor can be given land for putting up housing utilising their own resources.

Housing is only one of the factors which affects the environment. Provided the families get a feeling that the land on which construction of housing will be allotted to them on some long term basis, not necessarily on a freehold basis, they would be willing to mobilise all their efforts in saving and putting efforts for housing. In fact, it should be possible to guide and channelise their resources into construction of reasonable houses. With greater involvement and guidance, even architectural control is feasible.

In this context the recently enacted Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act is important in that it helps to check racketeering and profiteering in land and ensuring equitable distribution. The States where the Act is in force are already examining the surplus land that would be available and which could be allotted to the weaker sections

(Contd. on page 8)

Energy From Living Trees

By
MAGGIE McCLELLAND

The petroleum industry is spending hundreds of millions of dollars to find new supplies of oil when at least part of the solution to the energy problem may be in our own backyards.

University of Georgia scientists are taking a second look at the oldest source of energy known to man—trees. Despite the fact that man has been burning wood for heat and light since pre-historic times, trees are still abundant while oil is becoming scarce.

Three possibilities for the use of trees as an energy source will be studied : burning trees instead of coal for fuel in power plants, the biochemistry of oleoresin formation in pines, and the biochemistry of cellulose to methane conversion.

One promising concept is the "energy plantation." An energy plantation is a massive tree farm where trees are planted close together and harvested every five to 10 years. When the trees are harvested new growth springs from the stumps and the cycle starts over again.

The trees would be maintained by man to obtain the maximum yield possible. Improving the yield of above-ground biomass, which includes the trunk, branches, and leaves, is dependent on selecting superior tree varieties capable of more efficient growth by converting solar radiation.

Three species are being evaluated for their suitability for energy plantations, namely, American sycamore, sweetgum and yellow poplar. In the Pacific Northwest red alder produced yields up to 16.3 tons per acre (40 tons per hectare), for example, while sycamore yields Georgia have been achieved in the range of 11 to 16tons per acre (27 to 40 tons per hectare).

"Forest biomass is a very active field of investigation and it is possible that high productivities of southern pines, new hybrid poplars, or other species may be discovered," an American energy researcher points out.

In the fields the trees are chipped into small pieces for ease in handling. Later the pieces are ground into a powder to be fed into incinerators at power plants in a manner similar to the use of coal. Due to the amount of heat produced by wood, in comparison to coal, twice as much wood is needed. For this reason more wood must be produced to be economically competitive with coal.

If energy plantations are going to be successful, enough wood must be produced to supply the demands of the power plants generating electricity.

It has been estimated that a 132-square kilometer energy plantation would power a 150-megawatt plant, large enough to supply the needs of a city with a population of 50,000.

The U.S National Science Foundation and the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Solar Energy Panel commented in 1972 that less than three per cent of the land of the United States could produce stored energy equivalent to the anticipated U.S. energy requirements for 1985, if advanced management practices were used to produce continuous crops using more than three per cent of the solar energy converted.

Other advantages of the production of wood as a fuel can be cited. Trees improve the oxygen-carbon dioxide balance in the air. Trees reduce erosion. They improve stream and river clarity. Little depletion of soil nutrients occurs when trees are harvested. The wood ash left when trees are burned in power plants is valuable as a fertilizer.

Another possibility for using trees as a fuel involves the use of oleoresin extracted from pines. Presently it is highly speculative, but scientists feel that it should be possible to chemically modify oleoresin into a high-octane gasoline.

It was recently discovered that trees will produce significantly more oleoresin when treated with a herbicide called paraquat. After the application of this weed killer on pines they became soaked with oleoresin. Paraquat is the only chemical currently known to scientists which causes increased production of oleoresin in trees.

U.S. researchers are studying why trees react to paraquat in such a manner, and the biochemical process that occurs in a tree following the application of this chemical. By studying the effects of paraquat on tissue cultures of pine cells and tiny trees growing in test tubes, the scientists hope to speed up the process of experimentation.

Since all pines have oleoresins, a greater amount could be produced using energy plantations. Today approximately 450 million kilograms of oleoresin are being extracted from pines each year. It has been estimated that if all pines in the southeastern portion of the United States were treated with paraquat, 4,100 million kilograms of oleoresin could be produced.

Presently oleoresin has a high economic value for such uses as turpentine and naval stores. In the future, it might replace petroleum in many products, including plastics.

A third project involves the bioconversion of cellulose to methane. Methane, the principal ingredient of natural gas, is a rapidly diminishing commodity.

Since its discovery in England in 1659, natural gas has become increasingly important as an energy source. In 1960, natural gas accounted for 14.6 per cent of the energy consumed in the world.

In many areas of the country, to compensate for the demand of natural gas, fermentation has been used and developed to convert garbage into methane gas. Through a fermentation process, anaerobic microorganisms metabolize cellulose to methane.

U.S. scientists are studying how bacteria convert cellulose to methane. It is important to understand how cellulose is biochemically converted to methane, so that the basic fermentation can be manipulated to possibly produce greater amounts of methane.

Legalising Bribes?

The exposure of leading American companies for paying bribes to statesmen in other countries has caused confusion among American businessmen, writes the "Fortune" magazine. They do not regard bribegiving and taking as anything immoral and consider the present investigations as a misunderstanding due to "a kind of dislocation between our laws and the temper of our times." The magazine says they are urging the adoption of laws clearly determining the method concerning "foreign payments" and their amounts, in fact, legalise bribery.

Money-Maker

Amy, eight-year-old daughter of Democratic Party presidential nominee Jimmy Carter, is displaying a great business acumen. She has expanded her business in Plains, reports the "International Herald Tribune", from selling 10-cents-a-glass lemonade to selling 50-cent sandwiches to reporters who are covering her father The latter has repeatedly said that he is going to try to persuade her to cut the price, remarking that "even 50 cents is too much for Plains."

Jobs For Unemployed Youth

Plans have been finalised by the National Entrepreneurs Organisation (Self Reliance Cell of Indian Youth Congress) for implementing certain aspects of Prime Minister's 20 point programme and 5 point programme of our Youth Leader Sri Sanjay Gandhi.

The following Office-bearers and Executive Committee Members were announced by the Head Quarters, New Delhi :-

S Navneetha Krishnan Chairman ; M.M. Rafi Vice-Chairman ; P.H. Shah Secretary ; P. Bhoja Shetty Joint Secretary ; S.M. Sundaram Treasurer ; (Jimmy) James Joseph, U. Ramchand, A.N. Srinivasa Rao, D.K. Swaminathan, C. Indarchand Metha and miss Annapurna Prasad Executive Committe Members.

The Tamil Nadu NEO under its self-employment scheme (Door to Door Service) will be providing self-employment opportunities for 100 unemployed youths in the first stage.

The ladies' wing has a separate employment programme for providing employment for 25 young ladies.

A fair price co-operative marketing society is also under formation for labour oriented Small Scale Industries or their authorised agents.

The NEO will also provide guidance and liaison service for youths who are interested to start Small Scale Cottage and Village industries in Tamil Nadu. The NEO will be taking efforts to prepare an integrated 5 year development plan for the backward area of West Ramanathapuram.

The Punjab National Bank has agreed to finance the various schemes and projects of this organisation.

The President of the Indian Youth Congress Smt. Ambika Soni, our Youth Leader Shri Sanjay Gandhi, dynamic young entrepreneur and General Secretary of NEO Mr. Aksay Kumar have agreed to formally inaugurate the various schemes and projects shortly in Tamil Nadu. Mr. Y.D. Sharma, Organising Secretary is coming to Madras to assist the Tamil Nadu unit.

For further details the interested unemployed youths can contact Mr. A. David Mohan Executive Secretary, at NEO's Office, 32 Audiappa Mudali Street, Purasawalkam, Madras 600 084.

FUN AND LAUGHTER

SALES TALK

A canvasser faced a housewife.

"Good morning, madam," he said. "Here is a polish for cleaning silver—best on the market."

"Don't want any!" snapped the woman with the sales resistance.

"Sorry to have troubled you, madam, but I thought the lady next door was mistaken!"

"What did she say?"

"She said I need not waste my time calling here, as you had no silver to clean."

"The impudent hussy! Give me half a dozen boxes."

* * *

NOT SINGLE

The Russian writer, Maxim Gorky, was at one time living in a lodging house in southern Italy. He complained to the wife of the owner that his bed was infested with vermin which were driving him out of his mind.

The indignant landlady replied. "No, sir, that is impossible. We have not a single bug in the house!"

"No madam," retorted Gorky "not single. They are all married and have very large families too."

* * *

GREETINGS

A firm of lawyers rang up a stock broker, and the following conversation took place:

"Good morning, are you Mr. Denman?"

"Yes, who is that?"

"This is Hullet, Crafrig, Studge, Minardy, Gowle, and Sorrow."

"Oh, good morning, good morning, good morning, good morning, good morning, good morning."

* * *

ABSENT-MINDED

Absent-minded Professor (to servant 'You say there is a collector at the door. Did you tell him I was out?"

Servant: "Yes, sir but he didn't believe me."

Absent-minded Professor: "Well, I guess I will have to go and tell him myself."

HIS PROBLEM

"Now, then, Ramesh," said his teacher, "if your father gave you seven rupees and your mother gave you six and your uncle gave you four more, what would you have?"

Ramesh wrinkled up his forehead and went into silence for the space of several minutes.

"It ain't a simple problem at all," replied the boy, "I can't make up my mind whether I'd have dinner at a posh hotel or go to the pictures."

* * *

RECORD

A young woman, telephoning a music store, was connected by mistake with a garage.

"Do you have 'Two Red Lips and Seven Kisses?" she asked.

"No, but we do have two tom cats and seven kittens," replied the facetious garage man.

"Is that a record?"

"Well, lady, we think it is," answered the man. "We sure think it is."

* * *

COINCIDENCE

Blushing she hid her face on her father's shoulder. "He loves me," she said.

"Then I suppose he wants to marry you?" the old man grunted.

"Yes, father."

"What's his income?"

She started. "I don't know," she murmured, "but the coincidence is very strange."

"What coincidence?" asked her father.

"He," she answered, "asked the very same question about your income."

* * *

MAKING SURE!

Two expert pickpockets were strolling along the road together. Every now and then one of them would stop, take out his watch and look at it.

The companion began to get annoyed.

"I say, Jim," he said, "what's up with you? Why d'yer keep looking at it to make sure that it's still there."

* * *

WEAR & TEAR

The hard-to-please customer shook her head. "I don't like these shoes," she told the salesman. "The soles are too thick."

"Is that the only objection, madam?" asked the salesman. She nodded. "Then, madam," he added, "If you take the shoes I can assure you that the objection will gradually wear away."

* * *

MEANING

"Lenny, you're a pig," said a father to his little five-year-old boy.

"Now do you know what a pig is, Lenny?"

"Yes, sir; a pig's a hog's little boy.

SMART

A young boy, undergoing an examination for a position, came across the question: "What is the distance of the earth from the sun?" He wrote his answer as follows:

"I am unable to state accurately, but I don't believe the sun is near enough to interfere with a proper performance of my duties if I get this clerkship."

He got the job.

* * *

FOUND OUT

"Did you go to the doctor the other day, John?"

"Yes I did."

"And did he find out what you had?"

"Very nearly."

"What do you mean, very nearly."

"Well. I had Rs 50—and he charged me Rs. 40!"

* * *

BETTER PROOF

Teacher: "Leander swam the Hellespont every night to see Hero: That is the strongest proof of love we have."

Pupil: "I know a better."

"What's that"

"Our maid loves the postman: so she writes a letter to herself every night to make sure he will come next day."

* * *

HIS REGRETS

A friend saw her mowing the lawn. She asked her whether her husband, Amos, was still taking life easy.

"Amos," she replied, "has only two regrets in life. One is that he has to wake up to eat, and the other that has to quit eating to sleep."

* * *

PUNISHMENT

On being asked to write down a definition of 'capital punishment," a Glasgow schoolboy submitted this:

'Being locked in an ice cream or chocolate factory for a week-end would, in my opinion, be capital punishment."

* * *

NOW & THEN

"And now, Mrs. Sullivan," said the lawyer, "will you be kind enough to tell the jury whether your husband was in the habit of striking you with impunity?"

"With what, sir?"

"With impunity."

"He was, sir, now and then; but he struck me oftener with his fist."

* * *

PERTINENT QUESTION

Salesman: "Ladies and gentlemen, I have here the famous flexible comb that will stand any kind of treatment. You can bend it double—you can hit it with a hammer—you can twist it—you can—"

Listener: "Say, mister, can you comb your hair with it?"

HER WEAKNESS

The minister of a small church was running the gamut of sinbaiting. Every item from murder to cheating at marbles was being covered and each time he mentioned a new sin, a woman in the audience replied with a spirited "Amen!" or "Praise the Lord!" Finally, the minister wound up on card-playing women who neglected their homes. The woman hesitated a moment then responded to these comments with an indignant whisper to her neighbour.

"There now!" she complained, glaring toward the pulpit. "He's quit preaching and gone to meddling!"

DEDUCTIONS

A backwoods mountaineer one day found a mirror which a tourist had lost.

"Well, if it aint my old dad." he said as he looked in the mirror. "I never knowed he had his pitcher took."

He took the mirror home and stole into the attic to hide it. But his actions didn't escape his suspicious wife. That night while he slept she slipped up to the atttic and found the mirror. "Hum-um," she said, looking into it, "so that's the old hag he's been chasing."

* * *

OFFER

Two doctors were talking in a restaurant. A black market speculator was at the next table.

"I've got several cases of hysteria," said one doctor to the other.

The black market operator whispered: "Name your price, mister, I'll take the lot."

* * *

INFANT TERRIBLE

"What a boy you are for asking questions," said the father. "I'd like to know what would have happened if I'd asked as many questions when I was a boy."

"Perhaps," suggested the young hopeful, "you'd have been able to answer some of mine."

* * *

IGNORANCE

A customer went the other day into a bookshop.

"I want 'The Letters of Charles Lamb'," he said.

"You'll find the post office on the left hand side, a little farther down the street, Mr. Lamb," said the obliging assistant.

* * *

ANSWERS

"I've added those figures ten times, sir."

"Good boy."

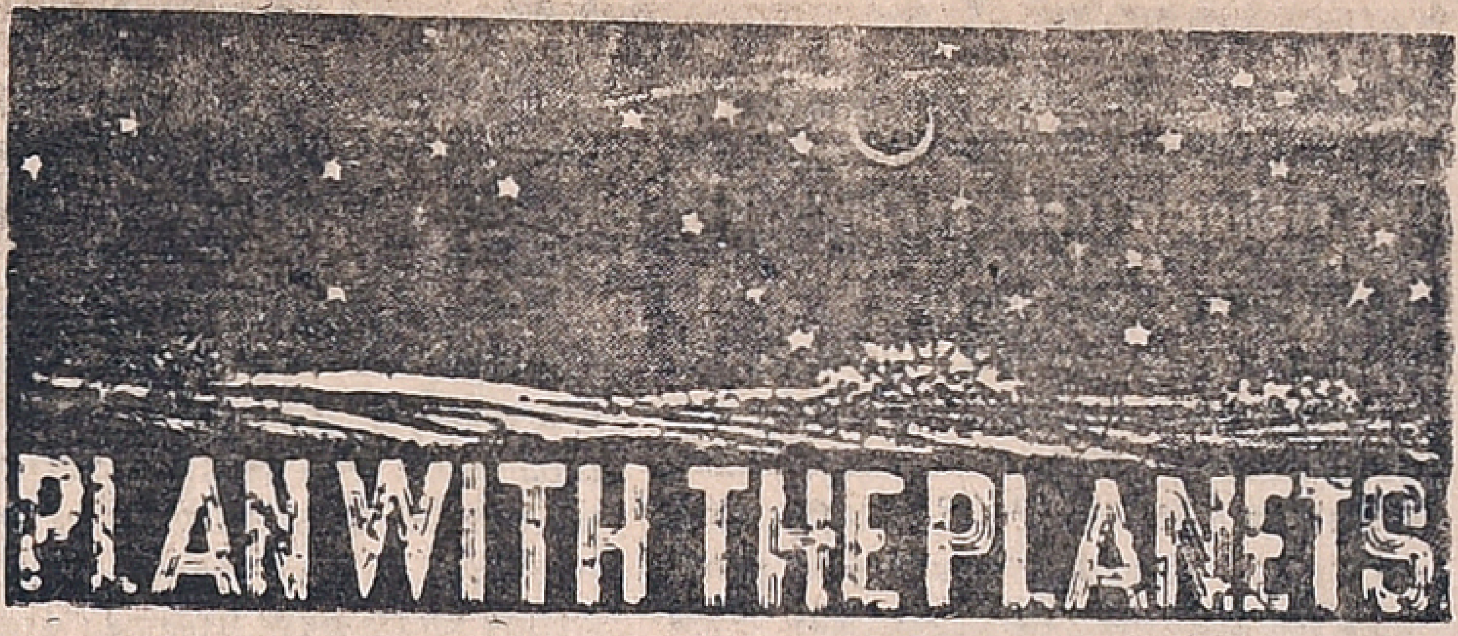
"And here's the ten answers."

* * *

DEFINITION

Teacher—"What does unaware mean?"

Susie—"It's the last thing you take off at night."



For The Week 29th August To September 4th 1976

GLOSSARY

Arudra	—திருவாதிரை
Pushya	—பூசம்
Ashlesha	—ஆயில்யம்
Purva Phalguni	—பூரம்
Uttara Phalguni	—உத்திரம்
Anuradha	—அனுஷம்
Jyeshtha	—கேட்டை
Purva Ashada	—பூராடம்
Uttara Ashada	—உத்திராடம்
Shravana	—திருவோணம்
Dhanistha	—அவிட்டம்
Satha Bhishag	—சதயம்
Purva Bhadra-pada	—பூரட்டாதி
Uttara Bhadra-pada	—உத்திரட்டாதி

MESHA (ARIES)
Aswini Bharani
Krittika 1/4

SUNDAY and Monday are helpful in financial matters. Family affairs come up for closer attention. In office there is a new force working. If you are careful, you can capitalise the present opportunity. Intellectual work will increase. Some advantages will come in your way. Speculative trends are a bit encouraging. Midweek shows diverse trends. Sudden decisions should be avoided.

★

VRISHABA (TAURUS)
Krittika 3/4 Rohini
Mrigashirsha 1/2

THE week opens with a renewed emphasis on monetary affairs. While you may feel happy over certain trends, lending business calls for vigilance. You will be attracted towards luxuries. At home, there is strain. Friction and misunderstanding are not ruled out. Health needs care. Investment and property affairs call for greater attention Friday and Saturday are better.

★

MITHUNA (GEMINI)
Mrigashirsha 1/2 Arudra
Punarvasu 3/4

THERE is very little which can elevate your feeling. More expenses, worries and health problems are some adverse influences. In official matters, caution is necessary. Midweek will be helpful for patient people. Week-end highlights finance. Social and political spheres show better trends.

Training For Thieves

Argentinian police have found out a strange school near Buenos Aires reports "PRENSA" a local newspaper. The school was preparing future thieves and pickpockets. As in other schools this school also has its "teachers". "pupils", charts teaching materials and other visual aids. For example models of suit-cases and bags, different types of locks and master keys to them, detailed plans of departmental stores and banks are some of them.

In the school's laboratory for practical training, there is a life size dummy of a human figure with modern dress, and a purse in one of its pockets. The 'students' should demonstrate in the lessons how capable they were in picking the pocket without making any noise. If the student commits a mistake, a red lamp lights up.

KATAKA (CANCER)
Punarvasu 1/4 Pushya
Ashlesha

THE week starts with favourable influence. Financial matters are encouraging. Some relief from tension is seen. Public relations improve. At home, though there may not be full satisfaction there is scope for personal improvement. Help from others and satisfaction in official matters are seen. If there is dissatisfaction do not worry. Time will change the matters in your favour.

★

SIMHA (LEO)
Maka Purva Palguni
Uttara Palguni 1/4

THE whole week can be said to be satisfactory. Physical weakness is seen. Thoughts on profession and an attraction for the good things of life are indicated. But speculation should be avoided. Continue your efforts in official work. Upto Friday time is favourable for successful efforts. Money matters and public relations are moderately good.

★

KANYA (VIRGO)
Uttara Palguni 3/4 Hastha
Chitra 1/2

SUNDAY and Monday favour influx of money. There is strong influence working in official life. But, you must be patient and should avoid emotions. In political affairs, progress is slow. At home, there is some friction or disatisfaction. Avoid any kind of speculation. Your judgement is likely to be biassed.

★

THULA (LIBRA)
Chitra 1/2 Swathi
Visakha 3/4

YOUR mind is stimulated. Sunday and Monday are indifferent. Cold and some financial worries are not ruled out. Friday and Saturday are good. Go ahead with your efforts. At home, there is little scope for full satisfaction. Problem relating to investments and properties defy solution. Though fine indications are seen in official life, care is necessary to avoid misunderstanding. There is scope for prestige and good name.

★

VRISCHIKA (SCORPIO)
Vishakha 1/4 Anuradha
Jyeshtha

THE week begins with favourable indications at home. Try to complete outstanding work. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday are a bit difficult for negotiation. Indisposition and stomach trouble are likely. At home, there is need for adjustment. There is little change in official matters. But, there is some scope for recognition and improvement.

★

DHANUS (SAGITTARIUS)
Mula Purva Ashadha
Uttara Ashadha 1/4

MOST of the week shows ordinary results. There is scope for progress in finance and family matters. But, public relations are confused. Emotional stress should be avoided. If there is any worry relating to a member of the family, do not antagonise anybody. Generally health may be below par. Some nutrious diet is necessary.

★

MAKARA (CAPRICORNUS)
Uttara Ashadha 3/4
Shravana Dhanistha 1/2

SUNDAY and Monday wil stimulate financial thinking There is a great force working which may offset the adverse indications to certain extent. But the danger is that you may try to live in a fortress of your own. Health will be affected. Political and social trends show delay. You will be able to carry on despite financial strain.

★

KUMBHA (AQUARIUS)
Dhanishta 1/2 Sathabhishag
Purva Badrapada 3/4

MOST of the week is ordinary. But week-end is better. Do not speculate. Family affairs are not very encouraging. Expenses are high. Illness at home is likely. Public relations are not very happy. Intellectual strain is seen. Human relations at home are somewhat strained.

★

MEENA (PISCES)
Purva Badrapada 1/4
Uttara Badrapada Revati

THE week starts with favourable influences. Official work is satisfactory. But, domestic atmosphere is not quite O. K. Strain and excessive talk are likely. Devotional impulses and success over enemies are seen. Do not worry. Take better care of health Investment decisions are to be taken after mature consideration.

President's Record Broken

At a big departmental store in New York, everybody looked with surprise when a 19-year-old student John Stockman was shaking hands with all in the store. After he finished shaking hands with the 8643rd visitor, Stockman, massaging his swelled hands, merrily told the crowd around him, "Hurrah! Finally Theodre Roosvelt's record has been broken!" Only very few know that in 1907 during the reception at White House the then American President shook hands with 8513 persons invited for the function.

—

WHERE THEY GO

"Do you know where little boys go who don't put their money in the plate on Sundays?"

"Yes, vicar. To the pictures."

THE FAMOUS ASTROLOGER
(OFFICE ESTD: 1924)
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A DAY UP ABOVE THE CLOUDS

(What will it be to spend a day in a closed space ship, far far away from the earth, from your dear and near ones? It is not like going away to the office to work or going on camp for a day or a week. You are separated from humanity by the vast expanses of outer space and live and work in conditions of weightlessness. The story is to'd here by F. I. Klimuk, Pilot Cosmonaut of the USSR—Editor)

There.........!

It is the Earth, but it is small, tiny. I am above the Pacific Ocean, Soon I shall be over the central part of the American continent. On one side is the Western Coast of North America and on the other side a panorama of the Eastern Coast.

The world oceans are simply beautiful. It is vast, all dark and light blue. However, the colour of the water surface is not quite the same everywhere: it is torquoise where there are many microorganisms, and emerald where there is algae.

...My ship enters the Earth's shadow. The moon and all the planets suddenly seem brighter. Behold, the setting of Venus, the goddess of Beauty, beyond the horizon is very interesting to watch. Probably it is the brightest.

...Nature indeed is pleasing to watch. But I am a little tired. It is now dinner time. Usually we cosmonauts have four meals a day. We eat often, but not much.

The quantity of the food is less and hence you feel like hungry always. But the scientists insist that their caloric value is quite sufficient. Dinner is more substantial.

What is my food?

At our own—I mean, the Cosmonauts' request, the menu consists of: the first course: cereal soup, beet-root, and cabbage soup; The second course:......it is more diverse; the rib of beef, pork sausage, veal, chicken, beef tongue, meat puree, chicken puree, sausage meat etc. For dessert there is tea, coffee and juice; apple, cherry, black currant or appie-cherry. There is also refractory chocholate and several kinds of candies which the sweet teeth enjoys.

You know, how bread is supplied to us?

Packed in PVC begs – eight loaves in a bag. It remains fresh a long time; even up to a year, Candies and chocholates are packed lightly in a thin filmy material which need not be removed; it dissolves in the mouth readily.

You know, all our food and beverages, except tea, come in foil-sealed aluminium tubes. You screw off the cap and with the tip of the knife make a small hole in the foil. Putting the mouth of the tube into your mouth, squeeze it lightly and suck out the contents. Don't press it too sudden and hard, otherwise the tube will burst—remember you are in weightlessness—and the contents splatter in all directions. It will dirty everything in its way. Then, you will have to do extra, and labour consuming work, Beware!

The daily ration, you know consists of natural tinned and dehydrated foods. The latter come in special PVC bags with valves; through them you pour 150 to 200 ml of hot or cold water; the product fully absorbs the water, it is ready now for the meal.

As I told you already, the daily ration of my food, is 3100-3200 calories, quite enough for the fulfilment of the planned studies and operating in outer space.

Dinner over......You must rest a while; since the flight programme says so.

......I hear the soft clicking of the automatic movie camera's shutter.

I know, it has got to. Every 10 minutes, the Camera is switched on to film our dear, dear Kitchen garden, rather a vegetable bed, in which we planted peas and onions a few days ago. Sixteen peas and several onions have already begun to sprout. The camera is registering the size and position of the growing stems. It is of interest to note that in conditions of weightlessness plants react to light more sensitively and much faster than on earth. Even the slight change of light immediately makes the plants turn their stems as if reaching towards it.

Now; it is time to water my "garden".

The purpose of this biological experiment is to study the specific features of the development of hydrogen-oxidising bacteria and plants in conditions of weightlessness. The results of this and other such experiments are needed for the elaboration of the individual units of the biologico-technical life-supporting systems of future spaceships.

Experiments with plants and bacteria on spaceships are not accidental. Biologists seek to evolve an ecological system which on the one hand, will provide a practically inexhaustible source of oxygen, so necessary for the life of humans and animals and on the other provide them with fresh products of vegetational origin.

We, cosmonauts, in space, like these biological experiments, since an encounter with nature after being parted from the Earth and close friends and relatives for a long time, affords us pleasure. The space pea and onion bed many a time boosted my mood; I used to feel that I have descended to the ground for a moment.

Every experiment in space is highly important and these experiments pave the way for future advance in the field. The very thought of such important mission fills my heart with pride and enthusiasm.

Jaya

Photography Without Silver

A Polaroid is a photo camera capable of producing photographs within a matter of minutes. One might think that nothing new could be invented in this field. And yet, it turns out that an entirely new method of photography could be developed, leave alone improvement of known techniques. This is the method of photography without silver, developed at the Physical Laboratory of University of Kishinev in USSR, using a semiconductor layer instead of the heloid-argentine layer in ordinary film. It seems likely that the traditional method of sensibilization by means of silver will be replaced by the use of semiconductors from now on as obsolete.

Taking advantage of the discovery of glass-like semiconductors, Moldavian scientists have developed a new technique known as the photothermoplastic method of optical recording of images. It is based on the use of a photothermoplastic film consisting of three layers: a lavsan base, a glass-like semiconductor and a thermoplast resembling resin. At elevated temperatures the latter becomes soft and is easily deformed by forces applied to it, i.e. by the picture focused on it by the lens. The picture is immediately copied by the semiconductor layer below and is fixed as soon as the exposure is over.

A special camera, a development of the Soviet "Villiya" model has also been developed by the Laboratory. It has an ordinary lens and, probably, the only new part in its design is the heating element which raises the temperature of the thermoplastic layer, making it viscous and capable of producing the photochemical reactions resulting in a fixed picture on the film.

The new method offers entirely new opportunities. In the first place, it serves to solve the so-called real time problem whih is of particular interest to scientists. With the new method it is possible to obtain a picture within O.1 sec. eliminating such painstaking procedures as development, fixing and printing. Other advantages are that the photothermoplastic film is not affected by daylight since it needs heating for becoming sensitive to it. Furthermore, the picture can be removed from the film just as from magnetic tape so that it can be used repeatedly.

Moldavian scientists have used the new film for making motion pictures and produced a movie which can be immediately projected on a cinema or television screen.

From Page 1

Words To Remember...

The very success of our movement has led to efforts to divide and weaken us, and to dilute the political content and positive thrust of our work. In recent months the non-aligned as a group and individual countries of the non-aligned movement have faced a variety of pressures. There has been angry criticism of our concerted stand at the United Nations and other international forums, and attempts at the destabilisation of established governments, amounting even to subversion.

These must be resisted. Non-aligned countries should strongly repudiate any extension of outside presences and exertion of pressure. Domestic changes should be decided by peoples themselves, not dictated by the strategies and compulsions of others.

In the process of gaining new adherents and sympathisers, we should not deviate from the basic philosophy which has given this movement its vigour and indeed its raison d'etre.

The vitality efficacy and achievements of the non-aligned movement have been due largely to its flexibility of action. Our deliberate rejection of bureaucratisation and rigid procedures have enabled us to concentrate on our objectives, rather than beiong entangled in procedural wrangles and jealousies.

Since we have questioned the logic of cold war belligerency, it is but natural that we should be glad at the many moves towards rapprochment, which are cumulatively described as detente. The Helsinki agreement is a welcome event. The present detente, which is limited in content and geographical scope, must be consolidated and extended to the rest of our globe.

How can detente in Europe endure if other parts of the world are ravaged by proxy wars and competitive infiltration? Detente should include respect for non-alignment by others. It cannot co-exist with the destabilisation of non-aligned states.

The peace that was arranged after World War II did not hold because it totally ignored a vast part of mankind which includes all our nations. In any compacts for peace, our views cannot be set aside merely because we are economically and militarily weak.

Neither balance of power nor deterrence by terror offers lasting solution. Time and again, the human spirit has prevailed over military power.

Emerging polycentrism has generated rivalries no less fierce than bipolar confrontations. We should be vigilant against attempts to split our role in the movement, to violate its integrity or to introduce discords from outside.

In the 1950s and 1960s, the rallying cry of deprived peoples was independence. As we seek a rightful place for ourselves in the contemporary world and are occupied in building our economies with the help of new knowledge, our development is impeded by the disparities and frustration of the old order.

Our people are not, nor can we expect them to be, tolerant of the present status quo of dependence and inequality. The world must evolve a new equilibrium of equitable interdependence in which the political independence and economic self-reliance of the weakest and smallest nations are fully protected. It implies the creation of a degree of mutual dependence which is of mutual benefit, without loss of identity or sovereignty.

Since the non-aligned meet at Algiers there have been important developments in international economic relations. These have demonstrated that the possession of resources does not by itself match the advantage of those who command technology. It is only fair to demand a more just return for our commodities, but we cannot relax our efforts at reaching higher levels of self-reliance.

Technological progress is not unthinking duplication of the designs of life prevalent in affluent countries. Our objective should be a level of technology which provides the minimum material and cultural needs of our people and which will enable us to withstand threats to freedom, political pressures and unequal economic deals.

The development of human skills to harness material resources within a nation is helped by more purposive co-operation amongst nations. As non-aligned countries we have been tirelessly advocating friendship which rise above political blocs.

As non-aligned developing countries we should promote greater economic co-operation between developed and developing countries, and discourage ideas of economic confrontation. The community of nations should jointly and peacefully achieve that elusive equation between global production and consumption that yields the right share for each nation.

The response of advanced countries to the compulsions of a new world economic order has so far been apathetic. Patchwork remedies are no substitute for genuine reform.

We need a global perspective plan which will relate resources to human needs and provide a system of early warnings of imbalances of disasters.

Improved terms of trade and credit, easier access to markets and better value for raw materials and industrial goods are all essential to secure greater equity in the distribution of benefits. Co-operation between and among our fraternity will enhance our strength in the dialogue with the economically stronger.

At Algiers and since, we have formulated programmes of concrete action for intra-non-aligned co-operation. It is time now to pool our resources and our experience. The focus should be on the range of functional co-operation.

The non-aligned news agency pool is an example of our determination to be better informed about each other on political events as well as economic development.

I hope we shall evolve new patterns of sharing our technological skills and resources as a means of gaining individual and collective strength, and finally break away from clinging colonial legacies and values.

We are confronted with challenge and opportunity. The challenge—despite tremendous pressures, to reinforce our basic unity and integrity, to rededicate ourselves to the principles that have served us so well. The opportunity—through collective power and united will achieve enduring peace and freedom for all—peace through detente disarmament and cooperation, and freedom through development, maintaining our distinctive personolities.

Let non-alignment give a lead in true independence, in new ideals for a harmonious world society, in a new concept of human emancipation and in new designs for national progress.

Years ago Jawaharlal Nehru said: "The door is open and destiny beckons to all. There is no question of who wins and who loses, for we have to go forward and together as comrades and either all of us win or we all go down together, but there is going to be no failure. "We go forward to success."

Muscovite's Diary

Ivan Ivanov

KATHAKALI TROUPE IN THE USSR

Celebrations of Soviet-Indian Friendship Month, devoted to the fifth anniversary of the Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation between the two countries are in full swing throughout the Soviet Union and the visit of the Kathakali troupe from Kerala Kala Mandalam formed an interesting part of these celebra tions. The Chaikovsky Hallwhere the programme was held in Moscow, was overflowing and many could not get tickets. This is the second visit by a Kathakali troupe to USSR —the first came in the fifties.

The programme in Moscow included some scenes from the Mahabharatha.

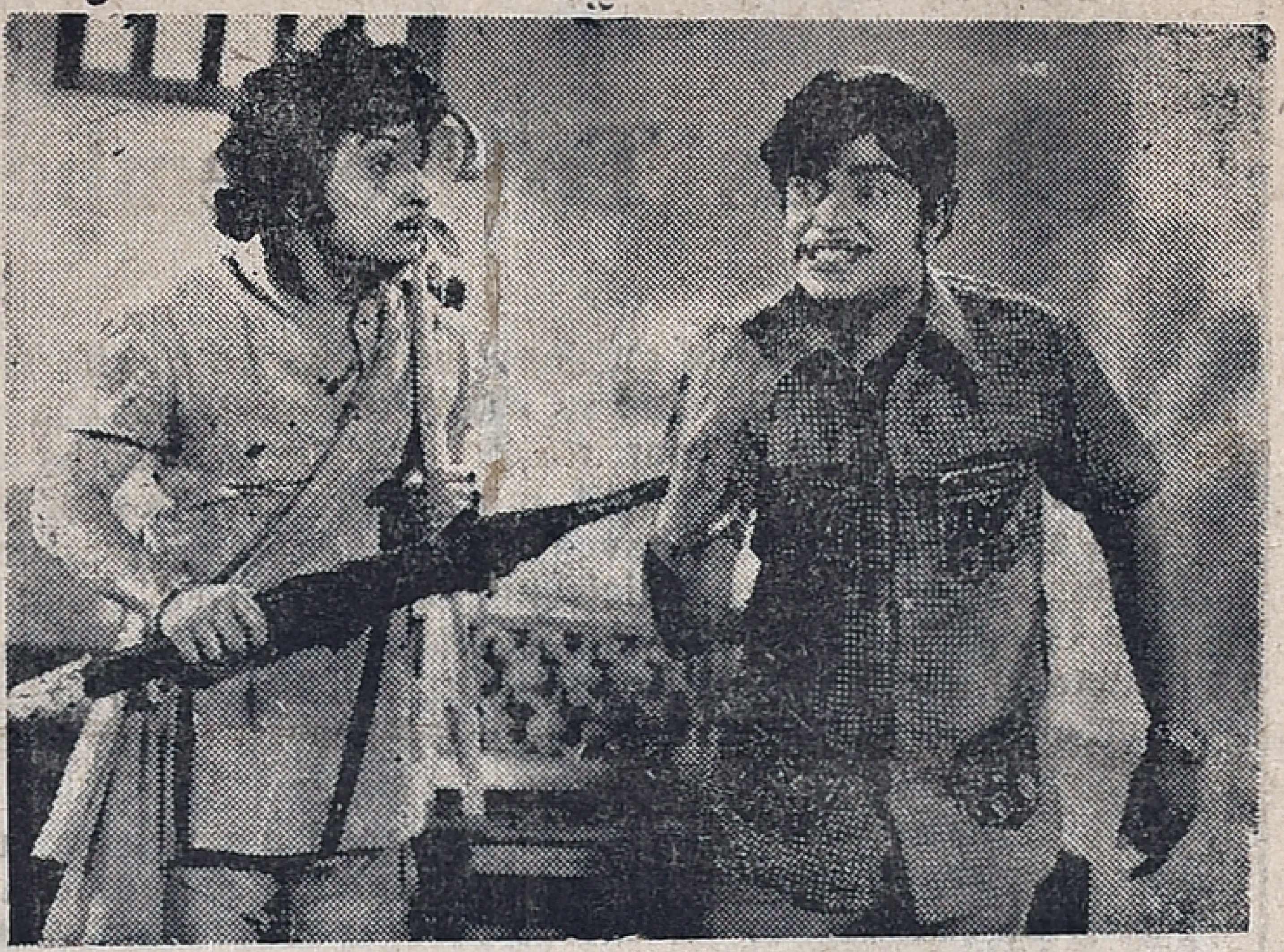
The "Sovietskaya Kultura" a bie-weekly writing on the performance says: "It is not an easy task to tell about the contents of this unusual spectacle. The best way to understand the Kathakali art is to see it performed by the talented troupe of Induchudan and his artistes, generally men and youth who have mastered the art of conveying emotions by facial expression and hand gestures.

"The songs based on the musical tunes of South India, the experessive dances and the talents of the actors perfected down to the smallest detail, created a bright and colourful spectacle which acquainted the the audience with the ancient and original arts of the Indian people," says the paper.

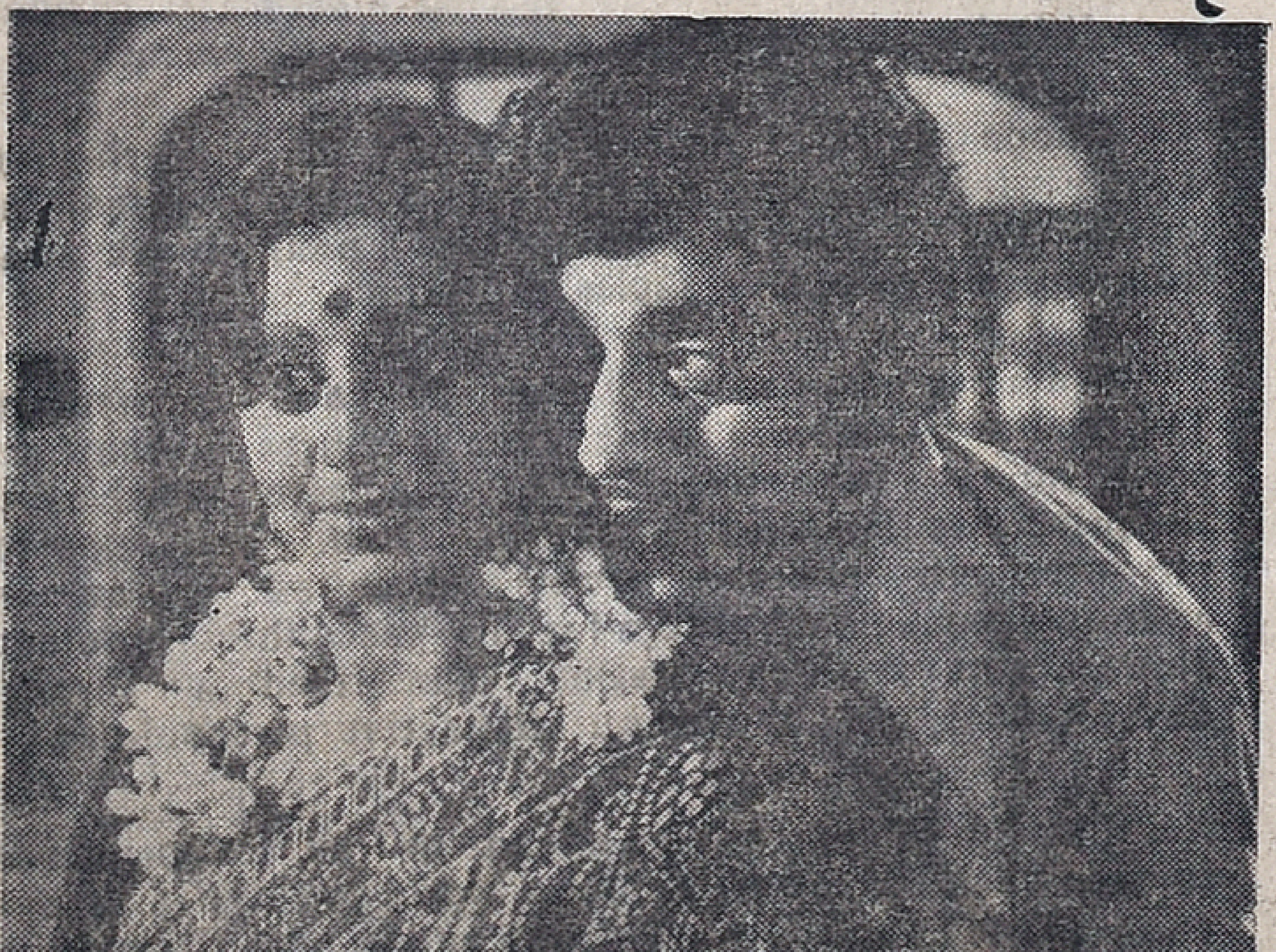
News about celebrations in the other parts are also pouring in from the different Soviet Socialist Republics. For instance, a meeting was held in the Byelorussian Motor Works which has been supplying India with heavy-duty tip-up lorries for several years. "Beat the deadline for Friendly India !" is the slogan one sees now in the shops of the Motor works.

Another public meeting was held in Minsk, capital of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic. Seated on the presidium were Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Byelorussia Alexander Kuzmin, Ministers, Workers of Science and Culture and the First Secretary of the Indian Embassy to the Soviet Union Mr. D. R. Karthikeyan.

Addressing the meeting Arthur Bezlyudov, Minister for Housing and Utility Services of the Byelorussian SSR said that the Soviet—Indian Treaty Corresponds to the vital interests of the Soviet and Indian peoples and is a powerful factor of consolidating peace in Asia and throughout the world. The same view was expressed by Mr. Karthikeyan also.



M.G. Ramachandran and Thengai Srinivasan in Subbu Productions "Inrupol Enrum Vazhga."



Sri Vidya and Muthuraman in S. V. J. Pictures "Nalla Penmani" directed by A. Jagannathan.

From page 2

of the society. With the enactment of this legislation it should be possible for the State Governments to tackle the problem of slum and squatter settlements. To some extent if we would plan the development of these surplus lands on a long range basis and channelise the newly arriving settlers. It would help surely urban development.

The above solutions are not adequate. They help only in meeting the existing needs. But the problem of the urban poor will continue to be acute unless solutions can be found to reduce migration into urban areas, especially to metropolitan cities. It is here that a whole gamut of policy issues are involved. Urbanisation as a process is unavoidable, but it can be channelised.

While urbanisation may be a necessary concomitant of economic development, improving the rural situation and encouraging proper growth centres is also necessary for distributing equitably the fruits of development amongst the urban and rural sections of the population. A main emphasis, therefore, in economic planning will be to arrange distribution of economic activity spatially, according to well chalked out regional plans and to encourage the growth of smaller towns and cities to deflect the migration of population to bigger urban areas and metropolitan cities. The aim is to reduce the complex problems of huge metropolitan cities to the extent possible and at the same to encourage growth of rural population. A proper urban development strategy is proposed to be evolved for this purpose.

Left In The Lurch

Genoa, one of the biggest cities in Italy, is on the verge of bankruptcy. Deputy Mayor Franco Monteverde told a recent press conference that it would soon be unable to pay the council employees. Since 1973, he said, Genoa was to have received—but did not—95,000 million lire from the Italian government. In the meantime the city's expenses and debts are growing.

Sad Statistics

More than 3,000 children die in the Federal Republic of Germany every year as a result of accidents. According to the figures obtained in the course of the Safe House campaign, about half a million children are injured. In this, the F. R. G. leads the field in Western Europe.

Records

Italian barber Pino Amato's world record of cutting the hair of 200 persons in 83 hours of nonstop work has at long last been broken. The new record holder is Greek barber Christes Angelopoules: 247 persons in 86 hours. Immediately after establishing the record he fainted and was taken to hospital.

While preparing public housing schemes, an urban environment should be created that will satisfy the utilitarian, socio-cultural and aesthetic functions. These interrelated functions must find proper expression in the ultimate urban design of residential areas irrespective of the income groups that they will house.

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